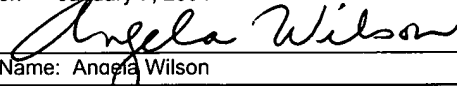


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Neiner, Christopher A.
For : CAN LID CLOSURE AND METHOD OF JOINING A CAN LID
 CLOSURE TO A CAN BODY
U.S. Serial No.: New Filing
Filed: New Filing
Group Art Unit: 3727
Examiner: Joseph Moy

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING LABEL NO. EV 184578093 US</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. as above, in an envelope addressed to:</p> <p align="center">MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p>on January 7, 2004</p> <p align="center"> Name: Angela Wilson</p>
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for filing a Continuation of parent application Serial No. 10/153,364, filed May 22, 2002. Before examining the new continuation application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph to the Specification before the section entitled "Technical Field":

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/153,364 entitled "CAN LID CLOSURE AND METHOD OF JOINING A CAN LID CLOSURE TO A CAN BODY," filed on May 22, 2002 which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No.